

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested. The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action of November 20, 2006, in which claims 1-28 are presently pending. Of those, claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,976,027 to Cutlip. However, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-5, 8-12, 15-19 and 22-26 are allowable over the art of record. For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 and 28 have been cancelled, leaving allowable claims 1-5, 8-12, 15-19 and 22-26 remaining in the application. In addition, claims 3 and 17 have been amended to correct typographical errors contained therein.

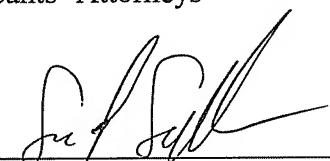
The Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file a continuation application for the cancelled claims. It is further noted that the statutory basis cited for the rejection of claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 and 28 (35 U.S.C. §102(b)) is believed to be a typographical error, in that the instant application was filed before the issuance of the Cutlip patent.

For the above stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered. If any fees are due with respect to this Amendment, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-0510 maintained by Applicants' assignee.

Respectfully submitted,
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